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# 2004 Session Wrap-Up

## Rep. Bob Sump 7th Legislative District

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2004 Legislative session wrapped up its 60-day session on schedule March 11. Although this year was a short session, it was successful for 7<sup>th</sup> District citizens.

One of my top priorities this session was to **hold the line on new taxes and spending and to continue efforts to improve our state's business climate.**

I also focused on a number of bills that have a specific impact on the lives of folks in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. This newsletter highlights the many of these issues.

I'm honored to be serving you in Olympia. As always, I welcome your participation through your calls, letters and e-mails. **Thank you for this opportunity to serve you.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bob Sump". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Sump  
State Representative

## Creating and retaining jobs in rural Washington

An important set of tax credits and deferrals for employers that generate jobs in rural areas was scheduled to expire this year. Some 560 companies are using these tax incentives, and business leaders believe them important for our state to be competitive in attracting high-demand, high-paying jobs.

The Legislature extended these tax incentives so that we can continue to diversify and strengthen our job pool, especially in rural communities. Counties have used the money on important projects that have created jobs and retained businesses in the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

Among the measures signed into law was **House Bill 2929**, a bill I co-sponsored that suspends the business and occupation tax for the state's meat processing industry until foreign countries lift their embargoes and begin accepting American beef again. Beef processors (slaughterhouses and meat packers) have been hit hard by the loss of international sales as a result of the mad-cow scare. The bill provides tax relief that is temporary and tied to the lifting of export restrictions. This bill will protect jobs and help Washington's beef industry and other businesses reliant on the beef industry stay afloat until the primary foreign markets re-open.

## Protecting children from sex offenders

As a caucus, one of our highest priorities and largest victories this session was to protect the public by putting our state's worst sex offenders behind bars. I supported **House Bill 2400**, which toughens the law against child molesters and provides major revisions to the state's Special Sex Offender Sentencing Alternative law (SSOSA), which in the past has allowed offenders to serve only up to six months in jail and then enter state-supervised treatment in the community. Although the bill was signed into law the battle isn't over. We must continue to find ways to protect our communities as well as prevent young men and women from becoming offenders.

## Supplemental operating budget – work in progress

In 2003, House Republicans fought for and successfully adopted a balanced budget that did not raise general fund taxes. In 2004 the challenge before us was to make adjustments to the two-year budget to cover costs over the remainder of the biennium without abandoning the sound budget principles in the original budget.

Budget negotiators came up with a compromise that attempts to strike this balance. Although the 2004 supplemental budget funded many worthwhile services, such as health care for low-income children and ser-

vices for the developmentally disabled, the truth is we are spending more than we can afford over the long term. It will require tough decisions to be made in 2005 to balance the next budget without tax increases.

## Legislation important to the 7<sup>th</sup> District

I sponsored and supported legislation this year that directly helped people here in Northeastern Washington. The 7<sup>th</sup> District team of lawmakers was successful in passing many of these measures.

- **Enacting common-sense water management tools**

Correcting the state's flawed use-it-or-lose-it water policies that lead to unfair water right relinquishments has been an ongoing battle in Olympia. I co-sponsored **House Bill 2504**, a common-sense measure to prevent irrigators from having to relinquish their water rights due to non-use when they receive water from the Columbia Basin Project. This was a real victory for 7<sup>th</sup> District citizens when the bill was signed into law by the governor.

- **Protecting people from cougar attacks**

Cougar attacks have become a growing threat. There are just too many cougars for the amount of wilderness left in Washington. 7<sup>th</sup> District lawmakers worked hard to convince our colleagues from the west side to adopt policies that put people's needs before the interests of wildlife. In the end we

were successful in passing Senate Bill 6188, a three-year pilot program to study cougar behavior in Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Chelan, and Okanogan counties. This bill will protect people and livestock from cougar attacks.

Your input is invaluable!

One the things I enjoy the most about my job as your representative is your input. I appreciate the time and effort you take to keep me informed of your views. I especially appreciate those of you who make the long trek to Olympia! Thanks to each and every one of you who took the time to share your thoughts and opinions with me. It helps me to better represent you.



Rep. Bob Sump and Republic High School student Colleen Scott, who served as a House Page during the 2004 session.

2004 Legislative Mailing Restrictions

Due to election year mailing restrictions, my ability to communicate with the people I represent is severely limited.

Thankfully, I'm allowed to respond to ALL specific, written requests from the citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup> District. If you would like to be updated on the happenings in the Legislature, please send a letter or E-mail to my office regarding your interest.

It's easy to stay informed!

There are plenty of ways to stay informed on issues important to you...

Information on the Internet:

State government:

[www.access.wa.gov](http://www.access.wa.gov)

Legislative information:

[www.hrc.leg.wa.gov](http://www.hrc.leg.wa.gov)

Understanding the legislative process:

- Go to the House of Representative's web site: [www.leg.wa.gov/house/](http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/)
- Click on "General Info"
- There you will find the "Guide to Effective Legislative Participation" and information about the law-making process

Best way to check the status of bills:

- Go to the Legislature's web site: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)
- Click on "Bill Info"
- There you will find a host of information relating to each bill passing through the Legislature

I would be happy to speak to your group, organization or school!

Topics might include:

- Issues before the Legislature
- How does the legislative process work?
- What it's like to be a legislator
- Issues specific to the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Watch TVW.

TVW (TV Washington), a non-profit public affairs network, broadcasts the Legislature on cable TV throughout the state. Check with your local cable company to see if it carries TVW, or call TVW for programming information at (360) 586-5555, or visit its website at [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org).

Ask for assistance.

Legislators are elected to serve you. If you are facing challenges working with a state agency, contact me to see how I can help.

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